

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are all the claims currently pending in this Application.

With this Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges Applicants' claim to foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. The Examiner also returns signed and initialed copies of the PTO forms submitted with the IDSs of September 19, 2005 and December 20, 2005, indicating that the references listed therein have been considered.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sato (WO 01/59508) in view of Yoo (U.S. Publication 2004/0130884) and Holman (U.S. Patent 6,871,982).

Applicants note that the publication date of Yoo (July 8, 2004) is after the PCT filing date of the present Application (March 10, 2004), and therefore, Yoo is only available as a prior art reference against the present Application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Further, the filing date of the priority document of the present Application (JP 2003-78493, filed March 20, 2003) is prior to the filing date of Yoo (December 22, 2003). Therefore, Applicants file herewith a certified translation of the publication of JP 2003-78493. This translation fully supports claims 1-13.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-13 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/549,810

Attorney Docket No.: Q88611

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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